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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Arab Network for Environment and Development
Special consultative status granted in 1996

First: Meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Council of RAED:

General Assembly Meetings: According to the bylaws of RAED, the General Assembly convenes every 3 years; accordingly, two General Assembly meetings.

Meetings of the Executive Council of RAED (Council of the National Coordinators) : During the period from 2000 to 2003, seven meetings were held for the National Coordinators' Council

Activities of RAED on the National Level

- RAED's national coordinators in 16 countries submit annual reports on their activities and achievements to the Secretariat of RAED, regarding achievement of the sustainable development goals and raising environmental awareness

- National reports were prepared on the environmental problems, the perspective of the civil society on these problems in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania.

- National, Arab and World Environment Day is celebrated annually

- RAED's secretariat held a workshop on Water, on the occasion of celebrating the International Environment Day on June 2, 2003.

- RAED's secretariat is a founding member in the Egyptian Water Partnership and the National Forum of the Civil Society Organizations for the Nile Basin Development of Egypt

- A workshop on Capacity Building was organized for 40 representing members of the civil society organizations on November 9, 2003.

RAED's Conferences, Workshops, and Regional Projects

1. Contributed to setting Arab strategies for Media, awareness and environmental education, in the year 2002 in the cooperation with the League of Arab States.

2. submission of an annual report on its activities to the Council of Arab Ministers, who are responsible for the environment issues, and based on the annual reports submitted by the national coordinators in the Arab States.

3. Annual celebration of the Arab Environment Day.

4. Is implementing the Regional, Civil Program for Solid Waste Management in four Arab Mediterranean countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon).

5. RAED organized the Arab Forum for Non-Governmental Organizations to follow up on the Resolutions of the Johannesburg Sustainable Development Summit.

6. RAED participated in the International Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Development and Environment in the Arab World, 14–16 October 2003, Amman.

7. RAED implemented a workshop on Environment Citizenship on 15-16 October 2003 with the League of Arab State>

8. RAED organized the Environmental Conference on the role of the governorates in Protecting the Environment.

RAED's connections on the National and International Levels

RAED's connection with the League of Arab State

- In collaboration with the League of Arab State, RAED produced the Guide of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Arab States which are working in the field of community development and environment protection

- RAED is a member in several Committees within the League of Arab States:

RAED's connections on the African and Euro-Mediterranean Levels

- RAED is the North Africa Representative in the Commission on Coordination between Civil Association and the African Development Bank

- RAED is a member of ANEW which the Activists and Practitioners network in the field of Water, for the entire African countries, which is coordinated by the Environment Liaison Center International (ELCI)

- RAED is elected as a Communication Rapperteur for North Africa and is a representative in the Steering Committee of the African Network for Water Program

- RAED is a member in the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

- RAED is a founding member in the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, in Athens, Greece.

- RAED issues a newsletter titled "Sustainable Mediterranean.

RAED's Connections on the International Level

- The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is among the most supportive and encouraging RAED organization and funded many collaborative initiatives.

- RAED attends the meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

- RAED works in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

- RAED is strong partner through joint conferences and workshops with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in Nairobi, the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA) and the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)

- RAED collaborates in the implementation of joint projects with the following governments and international agencies:

- The European Union (EU), Frederic Eibert Stiftung Institution in Cairo, United States Agency for Intentional Development (USAID), Heinrich Böll German Institution

RAED's Efforts with regards to Preparation of the Johannesburg Sustainable Development Summit

a) On the National Level

- Through the directives of RAED to its national coordinators, national reports were prepared on the environmental problems and the perspective of the civil society towards them, to be integrated in the national reports of Egypt, Lebanon, Tunis, Morocco, Mauritania and Jordan

b) On the Regional Level

- The Arab Meeting for Non-Governmental Organizations was held in the city of Tunis during the period from 28 – 31 March 2002, in order to compile a unified Arab Report on the priorities and problems of sustainable development in the Arab Region, to be furnished to the Johannesburg Sustainable Development Summit

- Within the Johannesburg Sustainable Development Summit : RAED was able to mobilize and raise funds for more than a 100 participants from various Arab States in the Summit.

- RAED's Publications on the Occasion of Johannesburg Sustainable Development Summit.

RAED has published 3 books in this concern:

- "The Earth Summit and Us: 10 Years on the Way to Sustainable Development
- "Civil Society in Egypt and the Johannesburg Sustainable Development Summit, 2002"
- "The Arab Civil Society and the Johannesburg Sustainable Development Summit, 2002"

2. Coordination française du lobby européen des femmes (Special consultative status granted in 2000)

The French Coordination for the European Women's Lobby is a national coordination grouping some 80 French women's organizations, federations and networks. It was founded in 1991, one year after the founding of the European Women's Lobby in Brussels. It participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and in every meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women since the 1994 Beijing PrepCom in Vienna. When it had the financial means, it also did its best to participate in all United Nations Conferences where women's rights were present on the agenda. Most of these events are mentioned in the present report. It was granted special status with ECOSOC in January 2000. This is therefore the first Quadrennial Report we have the honor to submit. We beg the indulgence of the Commission for any beginner's errors or weaknesses.

2000

The **C.L.E.F.** negotiated throughout the year for the ***Additional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, particularly Women and Children*** linked to the ***UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime***. Together with the **MAPP** (member organization and European branch of the **Coalition Against Trafficking in Women**) and the **EWL** (**European Women's Lobby**), we lobbied governments in Vienna for language beneficial to women. We joined the International Network of Human Rights, created in December 1999 expressly to unite forces for this all-important Protocol. The definition of trafficking finally adopted was a significant victory against countries and groups that wanted prostitution recognized as an "industry".

The **C.L.E.F**. closely followed the *European Charter of Fundamental Rights* then being negotiated. We fought actively for articles on freedom from domestic violence, secularism, contraception and abortion rights.

Two delegates went to the **UN** CSW in March. We sent a formal complaint to Kofi Annan on the inordinate number and behavior of Protestant and Catholic extremists allowed to invade the **UN** during this CSW, gravely interfering with preparations for Beijing + 5, destroying NGO documents and intimidating a number of younger women there. A copy was sent to **CONGO,** who congratulated our initiative and promised all possible help in future, and to member organizations asking them to write in turn. Government delegates, who came to NGO briefings and expressed their sympathy, called this behavior unacceptable.

Three delegates were active in Beijing + 5, one in the French governmental delegation : distributing documents prepared in French and English, taking part in the Violence Caucus, in meetings organized by the **EWL**, in the French-speaking Working Group, in Press Conferences held by the French governmental delegation, making presentations in workshops on prostitution and trafficking, being interviewed by several radios on the issues of religious extremism, prostitution and parity. Previously we had held Seminars in France on Beijing + 5, enabling fruitful exchanges of ideas with many associations.

We strongly protested the long silence and attempts at dissimulation by the **Holy See** of the numerous rapes committed against nuns by important members of the Catholic clergy in 23 countries on all continents. The **C.L.E.F.** wrote asking the French government to voice its indignation to the **Holy See** and to the **UN**.

In Geneva we met the **UN** High Commissioner for HR, Mary Robinson and protested her having worn the Islamic headscarf during the Asia-Pacific PrepCom for the World Conference Against Racism, where many courageous NGOs refused to wear this discriminatory article of clothing. These NGOs expressed their emotion to the **C.L.E.F.** and to the media on the lack of solidarity shown by the High Commissioner.

During the year various French radio and television programs asked our experts in different fields to express their views.

2001

Two delegates went to the **UN** CSW in March and their reports were widely disseminated.
In April, two delegates went to the **UN** CHR in Geneva. While there they met with **UN** Special Rapporteure on Violence Against Women, Rhadika Coomaraswamy to protest her stance in favor of the "sex industry". They also presented an *Oral Statement* to the UN CHR on the Agenda Item "Religious Intolerance"; copies were distributed to many national delegations and sent to member organizations.

After the European NGO Summit "**Afghan Women for Democracy**" co-organized in Brussels by **V-Day/Equality Now** and the **EWL**, the **C.L.E.F.** contacted the Minister of Cooperation to insist that French aid to Afghanistan be geared to help and effectively reach women.

A delegate participated actively in the **Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery** at the **UN** in Geneva in June.

A delegate participated in the French governmental "**Conference on the Family**". She condemned family violence against women, requested that, in such cases, protective clauses and the denial of paternal rights be implemented, and that women be equal partners in all discussions on this topic.

At the request of the French government, two members of the **C.L.E.F.** met with a Bolivian Minister, Ms. Uxo on an official visit to France, to answer her questions on the functioning of French women's associations.

Throughout the year 2001, delegates of the **C.L.E.F.** participated in preparatory NGO meetings at the **UN** in Geneva for the World Conference Against Racism. Their particular mandate was the double discrimination suffered by women of minority groups.

The **C.L.E.F.** sent two delegates to the **WCAR** in Durban (August-September). Their mandate was to condemn the gender dimension in racism, cultural discrimination, accusations of racism against those who defend women's rights against all religious extremisms, and "granting" women the label of "migrant sex workers", ostensibly to prevent their stigmatization, but in fact to hide the reality that trafficking exists primarily to sexually exploit women. Our subsequent Report and Press Communiqué on this **thoroughly racist and extremely violent Conference** were sent to the French government, media and associations.

In September, the President of the **C.L.E.F.** participated in the Seminar organized by the Belgian Presidency of the **EU** on the implementation of the Fifth Action Program for Women.

She was also named to the **French Governmental Observatory on Parity**.

The President of **our** member organization, the **MAPP,** was asked by the French government to write the National Report on *"The Prostitution System: A Form of Violence Against Women"*. We disseminated this widely by mail among French women's organizations and continue to reply to requests for it.

A delegate went to Madrid in November for the excellent UN Conference on "**School Education in Relation with Freedom of Religion or Conviction, Tolerance and non-Discrimination**". She lobbied governments on language and wrote a report.

On December 7, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we organized a Symposium on ***Durban and Beyond*** with French government delegates and NGOs from various countries who had participated in the **WCAR**. We read a message from Mary Robinson. The Proceedings were published and widely disseminated by mail in France.

In response to a request by the French Government, the **C.L.E.F.** contributed to its Report prepared for the **CEDAW Committee**.

The **C.L.E.F.** co-edited, co-signed and disseminated petitions on abuses of women's rights that are counter to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and to the International Pacts Concerning Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and concerning Civil and Political Rights of 1966. Some of these were:

- against the horrifying abuses of women perpetrated by the government of Afghanistan;

- in support of the trial organized by women in Tokyo, condemning the Japanese government that forced women into prostitution for their army during World War II;

- in favor of women seeking asylum to escape cruel and humiliating treatment in their countries of origin (project launched by the **EWL**);

- against stonings and other treatment of women that took place in the Sudan, Nigeria, Iran, Egypt…

- against the continued massacres of women and children in Algeria.

That year, we printed a leaflet presenting our objectives and activities.

2002

Two delegates went to the **UN** CSW in March. They participated in NGO caucuses to propose wording to governments and their reports went to the **EWL** and to our member organizations. One delegate went to the **UN** CHR in April. She was appalled at the complete disregard of the Agenda and the disproportionate time spent on a single Human Rights issue in the Near East while far more grievous violations in many other parts of the world were mentioned summarily or totally neglected. Her report noted this.

The **C.L.E.F.** proposed several French women deputies as speakers for the British Council Seminar on "Women in Politics" held in Paris on 20-21 June.

The **C.L.E.F.** began its official participation in the work of the **Conference of Presidents of Coordinations of Associations (CPCA).** Thanks to collaboration with two other French women's coordinations, this participation was accepted. It is noteworthy that this is the only representation of women's associations in the **CPCA**!

2003

The **C.L.E.F.** set up a working group to write a *Shadow Report on France* for the **UN CEDAW Committee.** This took many months and was later sent to the French Women's Rights Service, to concerned Ministers, Deputies and Senators, to the **EWL**, to our organizations and to all others requesting it. The delegate who presented this Report to the **CEDAW Committee** was repeatedly thanked for its pertinent content and was told that it was the only NGO Shadow Report on France received by **CEDAW**.

In February two representatives went to the **UNESCO** meeting on Anti-racism in Education.

In March, two delegates went to the **UN** CSW. One theme was "The Elimination of all forms of Violence Against Women, and we presented an Oral Declaration on "*Religious Extremisms as a form*

of Violence Against Women". We co-signed and disseminated strong NGO protests on the failure of governments to reach Agreed Conclusions on such a vital topic.

In April the **UN** CHR in Geneva accepted our Written Declaration addressing *"the Rise of Religious Extremist Violence in Western Europe"* with specific attention to France.

The **C.L.E.F.** prepared a Repertory of all its member associations. Many governmental and NGO bodies expressed appreciation for this useful tool.

Throughout the year, we lobbied for the *Draft European Constitution* to include the "equality of women" as a fundamental value of the **EU** and to eliminate Article 51, granting special status to "churches".

For November 25, **UN Day on Violence Against Women**, the Minister for Parity spoke at the launching of our National NGO Observatory on Violence Against Women.

Each year, the **C.L.E.F.** receives new member associations. It regularly informs of proposed national, European and **UN** measures concerning women. Association Newsletters often relay this. We also regularly receive young women preparing theses on women's issues and supply them with all possible help in the form of information and/or documentation.

3. Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (Special consultative status granted in 1996)

The Federation is a nationwide non-profit non-governmental organisation founded in 1989 in order to concur the different Spanish organisations identified with the project of promoting common objectives concerned with the defense and promotion of human rights in its broadest sense. With this aim, the Federation has grown in terms of member organisation, obtaining the Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in November of 1996 and extending its projection and work in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. The Commission of Human Rights

The Federation, as a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, has participated in this Commission since 1997. It has actively participated in all the period sessions of the Commission of Human Rights with oral and written statements on different relevant issues (Children's Rights, the International Criminal Court, Colombia, Sahara, Palestine, East Timor, the Philippines, the right of development, State terrorism, etc.); has sponsored meetings with other organisations; has attended meetings of special interest; has created and bound together its work relationships with a great number of organisations in the international scope.

2. Other Meetings and Seminars

Throughout these 3 years, the Federation has actively participated in different meetings organised by the United Nations, such as:

- Special Session of the UN General Assembly, Beijing + 5: Women in the year 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the 21st Century, held in New York between June 5th and 9th 2000.

- The International Meetings organised by the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, such as the one held in Madrid between June 17th and 19th 2001. The Federation participated actively in the organisation of the meeting.

- The UN Special Session on children. Global Movement for Children, held in May 2000.

- World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg between August 26th and September 4th 2002.

MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

1. Meetings and Seminars

The Federation has organised different meetings, seminars and courses with the purpose of launching information and public-awareness campaigns, in the scope of UN's conferences and resolutions on different issues of special interest for the defense and promotion of human rights. In order to do so, the Federation has worked closely with the UN Information Centre for Spain, present in several events.

- July 2000. International Meeting **"Alternative Committee for Colombia Plan: Colombia and Europe give a joint response to Colombia Plan".**

- September 2000. Meeting on **Human Rights in Peru**, with the special participation of Michel Azcueta, Deputy Major of Lima.

- October 2000. Meeting on **Human Rights in Colombia**.

- October 2000. Symposium on "**Human Rights and International Responsibility"**

- April 2001. Presentation of the film on death penalty **El Apagón**, directed by José María Caro with the participation of recognised Spanish actors.

- October 2001. Meeting "**Reflections on the Peace Process in the Middle East after the Madrid Conference".**

- March 2002. Symposiun on "**Spain's responsibility before the International Criminal Court**", organised in collaboration with the European NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court. Many outstanding jurists, such as Carlos Castresana, José Antonio Martín Pallín and Joaquín Canivell took part in the discussions.

- May 2003. To mark the illegal war against Iraq, the Federation organised in Spain a "**Court of Opinion on the War against Irak**" with the participation of prestigious experts of great relevance. The Court also had an ample participation of the Spanish Civil Society.

- Every year different activities have been organised to mark the commemoration of the **Human Rights Day** in cooperation with the United Nations and the Human Rights Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Spanish Ombudsman.

2. Human Rights Projects

Throughout the past 4 years, the Federation has strengthened its work in the implementation of human rights projects. The line of work that has been followed is the presentation of proposals to the Civil Service regarding the education in human rights, taking into consideration the importance of this issue for the promotion of human rights in the Spanish society.

The following are the projects carried out during these years:

- 2000/2001. Project financed by the Junta of Castilla - La Mancha Community for the creation of a virtual center on Human Rights, as an integrated communication and information system throughout the Internet, based on UN's ideas and guidelines for the education and stimulation of collective awareness in favour of new values, freedom and rights, deepening in the Culture of Democracy and the Global Principles demanded by the current situation.(www.fddhh.eurosur.org/centro)

- 2001/2002. Project financed by the Human Rights Office of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the diffusion of the objectives and works of the UN Human Rights Commission. The results can be viewed at www.fddhh.eurosur.org/comision

- 2002/2003. The Project **Analysis, Monitoring and Diffusion of the Cultural, Economic and Social Rights since the application of the Colombia Plan**, financed by the Municipality of Alcalá de Henares in the Community of Madrid. The results can be viewed at www.fddhh.eurosur.org/colombia

- 2003/2004. The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) financed a training course aimed at the training of trainers in education throughout the year 2004.

3. Violations of Human Rights

Without wanting to get into a thorough listing of all actions undertaken, the Federation has reacted to specific violations on human rights and International Humanitarian Law around the world, based on different international means for the defense and promotion of human rights as well as UN resolutions. Special monitoring and emphasis have been placed on situations such as Western Sahara, East Timor, Colombia, Palestine, Central America, Mexico, Peru, and on other issues regarding impunity, terrorism, preventive war, the International Criminal Court as well as women, minorities and children rights.

4. Monitoring of UN Human Rights Conference

Assessing the importance of the Agreements of Vienna, the Federation established in 1996 an action plan of systematic activities in order to go deeply into aspects linked to human rights education through actions aimed towards the carrying out of training programmes.

5. Participation in International Missions

The Federation, represented by its Vice-President Emilio Gilolmo, participated in the electoral - civil mission in Peru that took place between February 5th and 14th 2000.

RELATIONSHIP WITH NGO IN LATIN AMERICA, ASIA AND AFRICA

One of the Federation's permanent activities is its relationship with Latin American, Asian and African institutions whose representatives have visited Spain as part of their European visits, in order to take part in forums, promote funding proposals and seeking support for issues regarding the defense of human rights.

The Federation has actively participated in different international platforms for the defense and promotion of human rights with the purpose of strengthening common goals and relationships with other NGOs, specifically:

- European Network against Racism - Spanish Group (ENAR)
- European NGO Coordinating Committee on the Question of Palestine (ECCP)
- International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH)
- Oficina Internacional de Derechos Humanos Acción Colombia (OIDHACO)

4. Global Policy Forum
(Special consultative status granted in 2000)

Global Policy Forum (GPF) was granted Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Special Consultative Status in May 2000. Since its original application, GPF has not made any change in its name and contact information, nor any substantial change in its area of activity, geographical membership distribution, by-laws or organizational affiliations. GPF had a budget outlay of about $255,000 in 2003.

The mission of GPF is to monitor policy making at the United Nations (UN), promote accountability of global decisions, educate and mobilize for global citizen participation, and advocate on vital issues of international peace and justice.

GPF uses a holistic approach, linking peace and security with economic justice and human development. In the period 2000-2003, GPF further built its programs on the UN Security Council, social and economic policy at the UN, NGO access and accountability, globalization, UN finance, international justice, and UN reform. We placed a heavy emphasis on networking with other NGOs to build broad coalitions for research and advocacy. We also maintained close and cordial relations with staff of the UN Secretariat and UN agencies as well as members of delegations.

The GPF website is our most important tool for informing and educating the public. In 2000-2003, worldwide activity on the website increased eight-fold to reach 32 million hits, from 3.5 million visitors. The GPF site is thus the largest NGO website in the world covering the UN and its work. Each week we post 60-80 articles and documents to the site. GPF also provides a large number of interviews to print and broadcast media – some 300 interviews to media in 25 countries during 2003.

During the quadrennium, GPF organized lectures, conferences, roundtables, and other events dealing with UN issues. GPF also carried out original research in its areas of special concern and published a variety of reports and data on topics ranging from world hunger and the World Food Programme (WFP), Iraq sanctions, corporate accountability, reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, and development financing. These publications included fourteen major policy papers, including papers on "The Road to the Global Compact" and "Global Taxes for Global Priorities."

GPF maintained a very active internship program that brought talented young people to work in our office to receive training and gain experience in global issues. A total of about 60 interns from 24 countries took part in this program during the quadrennium. Some are now working on the staff of the UN and its agencies, as well as the staff of NGOs that work actively at the UN.

In the period 2000-2003, virtually all GPF's activities were in support of the overall goals and objectives of the UN. The GPF website stands out, since it is a major resource for students, scholars, media reporters, delegations, foreign ministries, and many others seeking information about the UN. Among other unique resources on the site, GPF posts extensive charts and graphs about the UN's finances. These financial resources are used worldwide and are considered definitive by scholars.

During the quadriennium, GPF participated in a number of UN consultation processes. GPF Director participated in a group of NGO representatives invited by the Assistant Secretary General for regular consultations on NGO access. In the framework of this process, he also met twice with Secretary General Kofi Annan. GPF was also one of a group of NGOs specially invited by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso to provide input to the High-Level Panel on UN-Civil Society Relations.

During the quadrennium, GPF also participated in several of the major conferences of the General Assembly, as well as ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. GPF was particularly active in the Preparatory Committees for the International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) (held in Monterrey, March 18-22, 2002). Together with the World Economy, Ecology and Development Association (WEED) and the Heinrich Böll Foundation, GPF organized four international conferences in the FfD framework – on corporate accountability (New York 2000), the future of overseas development assistance (Berlin 2000), global taxes (New York 2001) and IMF reform (Washington 2002).

As organizer of the NGO Working Group on the Security Council, GPF frequently brings together representatives of NGOs with Security Council ambassadors and senior UN officials. In 2000-2003 GPF organized 180 meetings of this kind, an important new type of NGO-UN consultation that began under GPF's leadership in 1997. GPF also organized several informal luncheons on Iraq sanctions with experts of the 661 Committee and we organized many other informal meetings and events on Security Council issues.

GPF played a substantial role in the UN NGO Millennium Forum in May 22-26, 2000. We participated in the planning process, organized panels on UN finance and Security Council reform, participated in a panel on the Global Compact, and drafted text for the final document.

In preparation for the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons held in New York July 9-20, 2001, GPF developed a special section of our website – recognized by the *Washington Post* as one of the most useful sources of information on the subject.

On World Environment Day in 2001, GPF organized, together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Rene Dubos Center for Human Environments and Worldwatch Institute, an event to honor the environmental legacy of Rene Jules Dubos (1901-1982) and to introduce the book *Vital Signs 2001: the trends that are shaping our future*.

GPF was very active in advocacy with the General Assembly's Fifth Committee during 2003 to promote budgetary action in the 2005-2006 biennial budget to enable universal access to the UN Official Documents System (ODS).

5. International Movement of Apostolate in the Independent Social Milieus (Special consultative status granted in 1996)

Since its accreditation in 1996, our Movement has established a team of delegates to attend and monitor proceedings at the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. Between 1998 and 2003, our

Movement spoke a number of times during its debates and issued oral and written statements. At its world congress, held in Fiuggi in October 2000 and attended by 1,200 individuals from 35 countries, the Movement undertook to continue its efforts to eradicate poverty through specific undertakings in its social milieus. In its final declaration, the congress called on the Movement's members in every country to implement and share with those around them the seven decisions it had agreed upon. A substantial information campaign was targeted at the Movement's members in 35 countries across four continents to inform them about the operation of international organizations (the Economic and Social Council, the Council of Europe, the United Nations).

The International Movement of Apostolate in the Independent Social Milieus is a community of lay movements whose members are men and women with professional, economic, social, political and cultural responsibilities. They are lay Christians who commit themselves to proclaiming the gospel to those around them, and also to promoting a more humane world by taking the side of the poor, safeguarding human rights and acting in solidarity. The Movement was founded in Paris over 50 years ago by Marie Louise Monnet. Its recognition by the Holy See in 1963 brought it membership of the Conference of the International Catholic Organizations (ICO). Since 1996, it has had NGO consultative status at the United Nations (Economic and Social Council human rights section). It has had the same status at the Council of Europe since 1999. National movements across four continents are coordinated by regional secretariats: the European relay, Inter-Island and the Secretariat for Latin America. A four-yearly General Assembly determines guidelines which are followed up by the international office.

Involvement in the Economic and Social Council

The Movement took part in the work of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva in March/April 2000, March/April 2001, March/April 2002 and 2003. It also played a partial role in the work of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003. It was represented in Geneva by its delegates accredited to the Economic and Social Council and issued written statements at all of the sessions between 2000 and 2003 (for example, E/CN.4/2001/NGO/26). The statements were based on contributions which the Movement received from its relays on the various continents (with input from the South American and European Movements giving greater weight to the statements made to the Economic and Social Council).

We have also drawn our members' attention to the work of the various working groups of the Economic and Social Council and the steps which experts have proposed to promote and ensure genuine respect for economic, social and cultural rights.

In these oral statements, our Movement has pointed out that many interpret the tragic events of 11 September as a cry of desperation from a section of humanity that sees itself as rejected, despised and abandoned to poverty. While our statements condemned the acts as barbaric and totally unjustifiable, they also noted with regret that nothing had been done in the intervening period to respond to that distress signed by showing solidarity and a willingness to share.

Representatives of our Movement have also been present in Porto Alegre and Rio de Janeiro, and taken part in the NGO-Council of Europe joint working forums, the Aide à Toute Détresse (ATD)-Fourth World international movement general assembly, the Financing for Development preparatory conference in New York and the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development in Geneva.

In one of its statements, our Movement, joining all who support the Millennium Declaration and the conclusions of the preparatory conference for the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, also called for any and all contributions which could be useful in achieving that fundamental aim to be part of a process conducted under the auspices of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

In 2003, we issued a written statement, E/CN.4/2002/NGO/5, distributed during the discussion of item 17 (b): the role of good governance in the promotion of human rights.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Our Movements across four continents are now made aware of the information on their countries when their Governments report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. As a result, the reports for Brazil, Chile, Italy, Malta and Portugal were made available to the Movements in those countries so that they could react and question their Governments.

All the national Movements have been provided, in advance, with information on working methods, to give them an understanding of this important aspect of the Committee's activities.

Working Group on the Right to Development

Since 2001, our delegates to the Economic and Social Council have been following the activities of the Working Group on the Right to Development. Consequently, for three years they have been able to build up a network with the representatives of other NGOs and - more particularly - diplomats serving on the Working Group.

6. National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs (Special consultative status granted in 2000)

NANBPWC, Inc. is a non-profit community-based social service organization. One purpose of the organization is to impact on the global community by developing initiatives that will forge alliances and collaborative programs across the globe. Another purpose is to partner with NGO's, governmental organizations, inter-governmental organizations, the private sector and academic institutions in order to provide effective programs for women and children globally.

The programs are implemented locally, nationally and internationally. Nationally, NANBPWC, Inc. is divided into six districts, each supporting the overall goals and objectives of the UN. Internationally, a team of members visits several countries a year, performing service in health, education and/or economic development. There has been no change in the organization's structure.

Major Conferences and Participation in and Contribution to ECOSOC

NANBPWC, Inc. conducted a Special Briefing for those who were unable to attend the UN Conferences or UN Special Sessions. These briefings were held with support of the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UN DAW) and keynoted by an UN Dignitary on the Conference Theme.

- **February 28 - March 17, 2000**, New York: Forty-Fourth Special Session; Commission on the Status of Women; Theme: Women 2000-Gender Equality, Development and Peace

- June 2-9, 2000, New York: Special Review in Nairobi; Forwarding/Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

- August 28-30, 2000, New York: Fifty-third Annual DPI/NGO Conference.

- October 9, 2000, New York: NANBPWC, Inc. 12th Annual United Nations Briefing and Luncheon; Theme: Beijing Plus Five: "The Girl Child" Keynote Speaker at Briefing: Sree Gururaja, Special Advisor, UNICEF; Keynote Speaker at Luncheon: Her Excellency Linda Tarr – Whelan, United States Ambassador and Representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

- **August 31-September 7, 2001**, Durban, South Africa: World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

- March 6-16, 2001, New York: Forty-Fifth Special Session –

Commission on the Status of Women: Theme 1: Women, the Girl Child and HIV/AIDS;

Theme 2: Gender and all Forms of Discrimination

- October 8, 2001, New York: NANBPWC, Inc. 13th Annual UN Briefing and Luncheon; Theme: Equality and Freedom from Discrimination and Violence

Keynote Speakers; Angela E.V. King, Special Advisor on Gender Issues, United Nations DAW. Panelists were delegates that attended the World Conference in Durban, S.A.

- **March 4-15, 2002**, New York: Forty-Sixth Special Session; Commission on the Status of Women; Theme: Eradicating Poverty, Empowerment of Women throughout their lifecycle in a globalizing world.

- April , 2002, Madrid, Spain: Second World Assembly on Aging.

- May 6-10, 2002, New York: UN Special Session on Children,

- October 11 & 12, 2002, Washington, D.C. Honored eight woman Ambassadors from Africa and the Caribbean, to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

- **March 3-14, 2003**, New York: 47th Special Session – Commission on the Status of Women: Theme 1: Media – Information and communication Technologies; Theme 2: Women's Human Rights and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.

- September 20, 2003, New York: Fifty-Sixth Annual DPI/NGO Special Conference

- October 13, 2003, New York: NANBPWC, INC; 14th Annual UN Briefing and Luncheon

A Tribute to Global Ministry: Addressing the Challenges: Human Dignity and Poverty

Keynote Speakers: Paul Hoeffel, Chief, NGO Section, UN DPI; Topic: Addressing the Challenges: Human Dignity and Poverty

Activities from 2000-2003

Each year, NANBPWC, Inc. implements programs in three areas: health, education and economic development. The programs parallel those of the UN in the following ways:

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: Women were taught how to plan and harvest a variety of vegetables in Ghana; donated hundreds of pounds of rice in countries in Africa.

- Achieve universal primary education: NANBPWC, Inc. has sponsored the education of children and purchased uniforms and books for them in Ghana, South Africa, and Kenya.

- Reduce child mortality: Added a maternity room to an existing clinic.

- Combat HIV/AIDS diseases: Building a clinic in a rural mountainous village in Lesotho to care for HIV/AIDS affected children and parents; presented literature and conducted workshops for women in various countries—Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Togo, Benin, Ghana.

- Promote gender equality and empower women. Formed a women's organization in a Ghana Village and taught women to bake bread, sew clothing, and manage their income.

Below are more activities of the International Affairs Division, NANBPWC, Inc.

2000 : The "Vision for Africa" was the name of the national program. More than 1,000 pairs of eyeglasses were donated to clinics, optometric centers and hospitals in Ghana, Togo, Benin, South Africa, Senegal, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Jamaica and Cuba. In education, the focus was placed on books. The "Books for Motherland" program concentrated on literacy. Books were sent to Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Jamaica and Nigeria.

2001: The focus was on health and health education in Africa. In Benin, NANBPWC built a boat for the Women's Association of Goghessi, to be used as a "floating clinic". In Togo, the members of the Association des Femmes Fumeuses et Revendeuse de Poissions de Vovisssi smoke fish without any protection to their eyes. We presented goggles to protect their eyes. Dr. Neal Herman, a Pediatric Dentist, performed dental examination of more than 700 students in Ghana

2002: A room was renovated at a clinic in Ghana to become a delivery room. In Nigeria, women used a breast model to learn techniques of self-breast examination. Girls attended a workshop entitled "Rape Crisis at the Okija Girls Secondary School in Nigeria.

2003: The "Rice for Motherland" program sought large families for donation of rice, a main staple in Ghana, Nigeria, Togo and Benin. In Southern Africa, HIV/AIDS is pervasive in South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho. Aid was given to address various aspects of HIV/AIDS.

Oral and Written Statements or Reports

- Beijing Plus Five, Addressing Critical Issues, Oct. 9, 2000, 12th Annual UN Luncheon

- Equality and Freedom from Discrimination and Violence – October 8, 2001, UN

- Discussion on Girls, Education and Development, Jan. 16, 2002; Co-sponsored by UN Economic and Social Council and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

- Women, Poverty, Health Disorders as it affects African and African Descent– March 6, 2002 – UN; Co-sponsored by Links, Inc., Medical Women's International Association; National Council of Women, USA and Soroptimist, International.

- Women's Health in Africa: Focus on the Reduction of Maternal Mortality: March 5, 2003; Co-sponsored by the World Health Organization and the Links, Inc.

- Addressing the Challenge; Human Dignity and Poverty; October 13, 2003 at UN

Contributions to the Implementation of the Outcome Document – Beijing Platform of Action :

NANBPWC implemented the 12 areas of concern of the 1995 Beijing Platform of Action and the Outcome Document of the Special Session of the General Assembly in years 2000-2003. Ms. Mary E. Singletary, UN Representative, NANBPWC, Inc., was the secretary for the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, for four years, 2000-2003.

2001: Women, Girl Child and HIV/AIDS – The Mid-Island Club transferred $1300 to the Ludao Day Care Center in Moshi, Tanzania to support HIV/AIDS orphans.

2002 : Eradicating poverty – The Petersburg Club provided instruments to boys from Somali. They earn their living by singing and entertaining others.

2002 Women's Human Rights and Elimination of all Forms of Violence. The Rochester Genesee Valley Club sponsored 20 radio programs to address issues of women's rights and prostitution.